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STOWMARKET  
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

KATHLEEN M. HARDING, M.D., D.P.H., A.K.C.

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

L. W. BROWN, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

for the year

1966.



STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,  
Ipswich Road,  
STOWMARKET.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health.

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year 1966.

This Report is required to be presented each year by statute, and the information contained therein is set out in accordance with legal requirements.

It is probable that to many persons it appears to be a dry and uninteresting collection of statistics, but if viewed with understanding, much useful information can be obtained, both by people in Stowmarket, and by the Ministry of Health and the General Register Office.

The most gratifying item in these figures is that of the Infant Mortality Rate. There were no deaths of infants under the age of one year and so the Infant Mortality Rate is nil. This rate is always regarded as an indicator of the general standard of health and hygiene in a Community, and the absence of any infant deaths in Stowmarket is a matter for congratulation to all concerned, and particularly to those people who so often, nowadays, have criticism levelled at them, namely the parents.

We have in this Country a National Health Service. Many people feel that since it is mainly occupied with the treatment of illnesses that have already occurred, it would be more correct to call it the National Disease Service. A very small proportion of income, both by local authorities and by central government, is spent in the prevention of disease. A far larger amount goes towards treating diseases that have already taken a hold on patients, namely £1,000 million per annum. But prevention is better than cure. Apart from the question of prevention there is also the question of treating disease in its early stages, before it has taken too great a hold on a patient. Early treatment not only shortens the duration of an illness, but it saves life. Both the prevention, and the early detection and treatment of disease saves money. To take Tuberculosis for an example, it has been estimated that 10,000 lives are saved each year by chemotherapy and by immunisation. Because these 10,000 people are not chronic invalids but are able to carry out their normal work, it has been calculated that their contribution to the gross national product per year is £40 million. In addition, because they do not need prolonged hospital care, another £15 million is saved. Pneumonia is another example of a disease in which antibiotics have revolutionised the treatment and outlook. It is estimated that 9,500 lives are saved each year by the use of modern methods of treatment. This has been calculated to add to the gross national product the sum of £48 million. By the vaccination programme against Poliomyelitis it is estimated that 400 lives are saved each year. This adds £5 million to the gross national product, and saves £1 million in hospital care.



The modern epidemics are lung cancer, heart disease, rheumatism, and mental illness. What can we do to overcome them? New medical discoveries are continually being made, but the information obtained is not being acted upon quickly enough. It is not only the medical profession that drags its feet in this matter; the general public is equally to blame. A few examples will illustrate this. Diphtheria immunisation was not adopted on a large scale until 10 years after it had been made available. During those 10 years many thousands of children died from diphtheria. Cervical cancer tests have taken five years to be used, even on a relatively small scale. Safety harness to lessen the effects of injuries from car accidents took 5 years, and crash helmets for motor cyclists took 20 years to be adopted. Lung cancer and its association with heavy cigarette smoking took 10 years, and even now large numbers of the public want to bury their heads in the sand and refuse to come face to face with the indisputable facts. Fluoridation has been proved for the last 25 years to prevent dental decay, but the general public feels that it is wiser and more knowledgeable than dentists and scientists, and has, in many local authorities, put a veto on it.

Another way to overcome disease is to discover its presence whilst it is still in the early stages. It is then much more amenable to treatment. With diseases like cancer this is especially important. Many people do not know that they have anything amiss when they are first attacked by an illness. It is only at a later date that they begin to feel unwell. It was in order to get to grips with the problem of undetected disease that screening techniques were first introduced. By this method, tests are carried out on sections of the population at risk, but without symptoms of the disease in question. After such tests have been carried out, it has been estimated that more than one in ten of the adult population in Britain has some disorder for which they are not receiving any treatment. These include people suffering from high blood pressure, urinary infection, rheumatoid arthritis, mental illness, diabetes, and bronchitis.

Screening is an expensive business. Mass radiography to detect tuberculosis costs about £1 million a year. It detects about 10,000 previously undiagnosed cases of tuberculosis, and about 15,000 other chest and heart disorders. If all women over the age of 40 years were screened once every 5 years for cancer of the cervix it would cost £1 million, and it is thought that 4,000 new cases would be discovered each year. To screen the population for diabetes every five years would cost about £300,000 per year. However, there is no doubt that screening would save money, and what is much more important, save suffering, disability and lives, by securing early diagnosis and treatment. Research into the causes of disease, particularly cancer, is also vital and many authorities feel that the amount of money allotted to this is pitifully small.

These, then, are a few thoughts on the promotion of health and the prevention of disease. They concern us all, and because it is desirable for such matters to be talked about and given thoughtful consideration, I have thought it right to put them before you.



## GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	...	1,696 acres.
Population (estimated mid-year Home Population, Registrar General's Figures)	...	...	...	...	...	8,060
Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	2,769
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£386,625
Estimated Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£1,520

## VITAL STATISTICS.

The Infant Mortality Rate is somewhat lower than the national figure.

### (i) BIRTHS (Registrar General's Figures).

#### Live Births.

				M.	F.	<u>Total.</u>
Total	...	...	...	62.	54.	116.
Legitimate	...	...	...	60.	49.	109.
Illegitimate	...	...	...	2.	5.	7.

#### Birth Rate.

Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 population	=	14.4
Per 1,000 home population - England and Wales	=	17.7
Comparability Factor	=	1.07
Standardised Birth Rate	=	15.4

#### Still Births.

				M.	F.	<u>Total.</u>
Total	...	...	...	..	1.	1.
Legitimate	...	...	...	..	1.	1.
Illegitimate	...	...	...	..	..	..

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Still Birth Rate:-

Per 1,000 total live and still births	=	8.5
- do -	England and Wales	= 15.4

Infant Mortality (Under One Year).

Total	...	...	...	...	=	Nil.
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Deaths of Infants Under Four Weeks of Age.

Total	...	...	...	...	=	Nil.
-------	-----	-----	-----	-----	---	------

Deaths of Infants Under One Week of Age.

Total	...	...	...	...	=	Nil.
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Infantile Mortality Rate:-

Per 1,000 live births	=	Nil.
- do -	England and Wales	= 19.0

(ii) DEATHS (Registrar General's Figures).

	M.	F.	Total.
ALL CAUSES	...	...	44. 61. 105.

Death Rate:-

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 home population	=	13.02
Per 1,000 home population - England and Wales	=	11.7
Comparability Factor	=	0.92
Standardised Death Rate	=	11.9



CAUSES OF DEATH.

	M.	F.	Total 1966.	Total 1965.
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1.	1.	2.	-.
Malignant neoplasms, stomach	1.	1.	2.	2.
" " lung, bronchus	-.	-.	-.	2.
" " breast	-.	3.	3.	3.
" " uterus	-.	1.	1.	-.
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7.	9.	16.	9.
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1.	-.	1.	-.
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-.	-.	-.	1.
Vascular lesions of nervous system	3.	4.	7.	13.
Coronary disease, angina	12.	11.	23.	24.
Hypertension with heart disease	1.	2.	3.	1.
Other heart disease	4.	7.	11.	14.
Other circulatory disease	2.	3.	5.	5.
Pneumonia	2.	10.	12.	6.
Bronchitis	1.	-.	1.	9.
Other diseases of respiratory system	-.	1.	1.	-.
Nephritis and nephrosis	-.	1.	1.	-.
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2.	4.	6.	9.
Motor vehicle accidents	2.	-.	2	1.
All other accidents	-.	3.	3.	4.
<hr/>				
<u>Totals:-</u>	44.	61.	105.	103.
<hr/>				



COMPARATIVE TABLE FOR THE LAST FOUR YEARS.

	1963	1964	1965	1966	England and Wales 1966.
Inhabited houses	2600	2669	2729	2769	-.
Population (Registrar General's figures)	7940	7990	8050	8060	48,075,300
Live births	126	119	125	116	850,000**
Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population	16.98	15.94	16.61	15.4	17.7
Deaths of Infants under One Year	2	1	2	Nil	16,147
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births	15.4	8.4	7.2	Nil	19.0
Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population	11.95	13.29	12.66	11.9	11.7

\*\*Estimated

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Excluding Tuberculosis) - Compiled from Notifications received.

Diseases	Ages							Total	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	1/2	3/4	5/9	10/14	15/24	25+	Age Unknown			
Measles	34	39	70	1	3	-	-	147	-	-
Scarlet Fever	-	-	3	-	2	--	-	5	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<u>TOTALS:-</u>								153	-	-



TUBERCULOSIS.

(i) New cases notified:-	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
	1.	—	1.	—	—	—

This case, aged 73 years, was admitted to hospital and died there shortly afterwards.

- (ii) The particulars of the cases on the Register were investigated locally and a number of changes registered and notified to the Chest Physician. Arising from this review, three cases were removed from the Register on discovering their departure to other districts.
- (iii) One case which had been removed from the Register in July, 1965, was restored to the Register a year later on re-activation.
- (iv) One case was transferred from the Gipping to the Stowmarket Register on his change of residence.
- (v) Seven cases were removed from the Register on their recovery.
- (vi) Cases on the Register at the end of the year:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>			<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>		
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total</u>
	9.	1.	10.	4.	3.	7.

VACCINATIONS AND IMMUNISATIONS. (Figures supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.)

		<u>1966.</u>	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>
(i) <u>SMALLPOX VACCINATIONS.</u>				
Primary vaccinations	...	...	79.	75.
Re-vaccinations	...	...	5.	6.
				82.
(ii) <u>IMMUNISATIONS.</u>				23.
(a) <u>Primary.</u>				
Diphtheria	...	...	—.	—.
Whooping Cough	...	...	—.	—.
Tetanus	...	...	10.	9.
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	...	...	—.	—.
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus			47.	20.
Diphtheria/Tetanus/Whooping Cough/Polio	...	...	—.	1.
			57.	30.
			<u>=====</u>	<u>=====</u>
			165.	<u>=====</u>



(ii) IMMUNISATIONS (Continued).

			<u>1966.</u>	<u>1965.</u>	<u>1964.</u>
(b) <u>Boosters.</u>					
Diphtheria	...	...	...	21.)	
Tetanus	...	...	3.	7.)	
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough	...		1.)	123.	
Diphtheria/Tetanus	...	...	4.	20.)	
Diphtheria/Whooping Cough/Tetanus			109.	89.)	
			<u>116.</u>	<u>138.</u>	<u>123.</u>
			<u><u>116.</u></u>	<u><u>138.</u></u>	<u><u>123.</u></u>

(iii) POLIOMYELITIS.

(a) Primary.

Sabine vaccine	...	...	<u>146.</u>	<u>121.</u>	No record.
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(b) Boosters.

Salk vaccine	...	...	15.	No record.	
Sabine vaccine	...	...	30.		
			<u>3.</u>	<u>45.</u>	
			<u><u>3.</u></u>	<u><u>45.</u></u>	

SECTION 47 OF THE NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

No formal action was necessary under this Act to hospitalise anyone incapable of attending to their own needs.

FOOD.

Information under this heading is given in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one open air swimming bath which is owned and maintained by the Council. It is supplied with mains water.

The water is treated with break-point chlorination and is filtered. It is changed at the rate of 20,000 gallons per hour. The pool is emptied completely and cleaned out once a year.

Analyses of the water during the year have been most satisfactory.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Action taken under the Factories Act, 1961, is detailed in the Public Health Inspector's Report.

HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(a) Home Nursing.

Under the County Council's Scheme one full-time midwife and one district nurse/midwife are employed in the District; one general duties nurse is also engaged for part of her time in the District.



(b) Home Helps.

Miss K. M. Tillett is the County Council's home help organiser, and arranges for home helps to be made available in approved cases. The service is principally available to the elderly and disabled to enable them to maintain their independence in their own homes as an alternative to possible hospitalisation. The problem family, the mother after confinement, and the family with the temporary loss of its housewife and mother are others in the categories recognised for home help service, in order to ease their burden during a temporary period of stress.

(c) Welfare Foods Service.

Welfare foods are available on Wednesdays at the Violet Hill Clinic, the voluntary staffing of this section being undertaken by Mrs. Phillippo and Mrs. Naylor, who generously give of their time for the benefit of the young and their mothers.

Welfare foods are also available Mondays to Fridays at the local Council Offices.

(d) Child-Minding Service.

A creche is provided by members of the W.V.S. in the Constitutional Hall, Milton Road, every Thursday for the benefit of young mothers visiting the Town for their market day shopping.

(e) Health Visiting.

One full-time health visitor, Mrs. S. Butler, includes Stowmarket in her territory under the County Council's Scheme. She is actively engaged in promoting the welfare of the family, and her especial interests are the less able, the pre-school age, the physically handicapped and the problem family.

(f) Clinic Services.

The County Council's Clinic is situated in Violet Hill, and affords a wide variety of services:-

Infant Welfare Clinic is held each Wednesday, 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Mothercraft and relaxation classes are attended twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays.

Speech therapy sessions are held on Tuesdays.

The Chest Clinic, with a Consultant Chest Physician in attendance, is held twice a month on the second and fourth Thursdays.

Family planning advice is available on the first and third Thursday afternoons, and Thursday evenings, 6.00 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.

Ophthalmic clinic sessions take place on the first and third Thursday mornings.

Chest physiotherapy treatment is available on Wednesday mornings.

The Dental Clinic operates as necessary.

A Diabetics Clinic is held once a month.

A chiropody service is available on Monday afternoons.



(g) Venereal Diseases Clinic.

Anyone who has risked infection, and any extra-marital sexual relationship constitutes this risk, should use the discreet services of the Venereal Diseases Clinics, which are equipped for reliable diagnosis and speedy and convenient treatment. Two such Clinics are available to the local population, as follows:-

(i) Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital, (Skin Dept.), Anglesea Road Wing, Ipswich.

Males: Mondays 5.30 p.m. - 7.30 p.m.  
Fridays 1.00 p.m. - 2.30 p.m.

Females: Mondays 7.30 p.m. - 8.30 p.m.  
Tuesdays 2.00 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.  
Fridays 3.30 p.m. - 5.00 p.m.

(ii) West Suffolk General Hospital, Bury St. Edmunds.

Males and Females: Wednesdays 10.00 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

(h) Laboratory Facilities.

The Council utilises the services of the Public Health Laboratory Service for the bacteriological examination work which forms an essential part of the Department's duties.

Before concluding I should like to thank the Chairman and Members of the Council for their interest during the past year. I am also grateful to the officers and staff of the Council, particularly Mr. L. W. Brown, for their assistance and co-operation.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,  
Your Obedient Servant,

KATHLEEN M. HARDING

Medical Officer of Health.



STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Council Offices,  
Ipswich Road,  
STOWMARKET,  
Suffolk.

August, 1967.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
STOWMARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

Annual Report of the Public Health Inspector.

It is my privilege to present my fifth Annual Report concerning the environmental health work undertaken during 1966.

HOUSING.

New Dwellings.

Bungalow development on the Abbots Hall Estate and house development on the Edgars Farm Estate continued during the year, with the latter showing some attraction with houses at a relatively more appealing price of less than £3,000. In all, 52 dwellings were completed by private enterprise, and 8 bungalows were completed by the Council in St. Edmunds Road.

Building Regulations came into force to replace the old building byelaws. The importance of adequate building regulations control is recognised by the Council, which has now designated a post in the Engineer's Department for this specific work, whilst appointing a Building Supervisor for its own work.

The importance of good building practice cannot be over-emphasised, and one of the Council's conditions for the advance of money for house building purposes is that mortgagors must employ builders registered with the National House Builders Registration Council, or the building must be supervised by a qualified architect or surveyor.

Proposed New Dwellings.

Approval was given during the year to an open-plan private development off Ford Terrace, which it is anticipated will provide 92 units of housing accommodation.

The layout and details of the Council's own redevelopment of the Ham Row site received approval, and 16 one and two-bedroom bungalows should materialise to replace some pretty awful worn out houses in the Council's slum clearance scheme before very long.

Apart from the usual excellence of the Council's bungalow designs, one extremely pleasing feature of these new bungalows will be the incorporation of gas-fired central heating. Apart from the fact that this will, in



its own small way, make a contribution to a cleaner atmosphere in the immediate neighbourhood of the development, the elimination of solid fuel will relieve the elderly occupants of both mess and danger that may be associated with open fires and the elderly. The blessing will be threefold, for there should be no concern over the occupants succumbing to hypothermia, a condition which has been concerning medical opinion in recent years, and results from the inability of elderly people to maintain satisfactory body temperatures in the traditionally inadequately heated homes the majority of people endure in this Country. In view of the benefits the central heating must not be one of the features of the bungalow to be sacrificed to keep the development within the Ministry's financial yardstick, which is currently overshadowing this project.

The Engineer's designs for the development of the  $5\frac{1}{2}$  acre Home Meadow site on the Chilton Hall Estate have also been approved to achieve something like 80 houses on this Site, which the Council during the year decided should accommodate two and three-bedroom houses in the approximate ratio of 1:4.

There is provision for continuing development of the Abbots Hall and Edgars Farm Estates, and plans are afoot to develop large sites in Onehouse Road and off Lockington Road in the not too distant future.

The overall planning of building development is perhaps of no less importance than the design of the individual unit, and the Public Health Committee takes considerable trouble in examining the proposals for its recommendations to the South West Area Planning Committee of the County Council. Where housing estates are concerned, both the general and the individual environment are of the utmost importance. The satisfying of basic development densities is apt to be too sweeping a generalisation, that whilst satisfying general environmental considerations may not safeguard those of the individual inhabitant, and there have been recent local housing developments which have resulted in a very pleasant and spacious general environment particularly noticeable at the front, but also resulting in back gardens and private environment at the rear being in some cases rather small.

#### House Improvement.

No compulsory improvement was enforced by the Council and no improvement areas were declared during the year; for one thing the economic climate was hardly conducive to such an exercise for much of the period.

The Council, mindful of the need to modernise its own out-dated houses and bungalows, pressed on with its improvement programmes. The merit in this has been underlined by the increasing reluctance of Council house applicants to accept pre-war units which, in some cases, offer little improvement over the accommodation from which they plead relief - a factor which has increased the difficulties of the Housing (Tenants and Welfare) Committee from time to time.

Improvements to discretionary grant standard were completed under the guidance of the Council's Engineer at Nos. 122 - 140, Poplar Hill. Similar improvements were started on a further improvement stage involving Nos. 15 - 91 and 2 - 94, Hillside, Nos. 2 - 8, Church Road, and Nos. 117 - 127, and 131 - 133, Poplar Hill, incurring expenditure in excess of £45,000.



With this stage under way, the Council has agreed, on the advice of its Engineer, on the preparation of yet another stage aimed at completing the improvement of pre-war Council houses in a period of three years, and the next step proposes attention to 161 pre-war houses with outside waterclosets or closets adjoining kitchens and without basic modern amenities.

Private improvement, using Council grant-aid schemes, continued at an average rate. Costs have continued to rise, and the Council finds itself allocating from £230 - £250 grant towards extension bathroom schemes, which are the more favoured in this District, which has a high proportion of two and three-bedroom terrace houses attracting improvements.

The following is a summary of improvement grant work during the year:-

Standard Grants:

Applications approved in respect of owner-occupied dwellings	20
Applications approved in respect of tenanted dwellings	5
Owner-occupied dwellings improved	19
Tenanted dwellings improved	2
Amount paid in Grants	£3803 4s. 9d.
Amenities provided:	
Baths	20
Washhandbasins	20
Inside waterclosets	21
Hot water systems	20
Food stores	18
Average Grant per house	£181 2s. 1d.

Discretionary Grants:

Applications approved in respect of owner-occupied dwellings	Nil.
Applications approved in respect of tenanted dwellings	Nil.
Owner-occupied dwellings improved	Nil.
Tenanted dwellings improved	1
Amount of Grant paid	£225 0s. 0d.

Unfit, Inadequate or Otherwise Unsuitable Housing.

The Council's slum clearance programme remained virtually untouched during the year, although action was taken to close for human habitation nos. 7 and 9 and 67, Stowupland Street, when negotiations resulted in owners giving undertakings to not relet these premises. Nos. 7 and 9, Stowupland Street were eventually demolished to make way for commercial redevelopment. A review of the houses in respect of which action had previously been taken under the Housing Acts, and which were remaining standing or occupied, was made during the year, but the situation remains almost unaltered apart from the fact that nos. 3/5/7, Union Street have been demolished.

With no significant additions to the Council's housing stocks, the Council was able to take action only to relieve pressing individual cases of housing distress.



A schedule supplied by the Clerk of the Council showed the Council housing applicants waiting lists to be as follows in 1966:-

HOUSING APPLICANTS - SIZE OF FAMILY

Applicants living and working in District

Single applicants	34
Two in family	64
Three in family	52
Four in family	27
Five in family	3
Seven or more in family	2
	<hr/>
	182
	<hr/>

Applicants living outside and working inside District

Single applicants	20
Two in family	29
Three in family	24
Four in family	27
Five in family	9
Six in family	3
Seven in family	3
	<hr/>
	115
	<hr/>

Tenants wishing to transfer to more suitable accommodation

	<u>One-bedroom Accommodation</u>	<u>Two-bedroom Accommodation</u>	<u>Three-bedroom Accommodation</u>
Single applicants	-	3	16
Two in family	2	11	20
Three in family	-	23	23
Four in family	-	11	21
Five in family	-	1	9
Six in family	-	-	4
Seven in family	-	-	3
Eight in family	-	-	1

This schedule shows that there were, presumably, some 8 families in need of at least 4-bedroom accommodation for comfortable and convenient living.

A total of 33 applicants and others involved in rehousing schemes were re-accommodated during the year. Of these, three were rehoused from dwellings in the slum clearance programme:-

Doherty, 3, Combs Ford Square, to 55, Hillside.  
Holden, 7, Stowupland Street, to 32, Curwen Road.  
Coleby, 4, Combs Ford Square, to 1, Ford Close.

The elderly Mr. Goodwyn removed to Wade House old people's home where he subsequently died, prior to the demolition of his home address at no. 9, Stowupland Street.

In addition, a house not included in the slum clearance programme was found to be unfit and distressing its elderly occupant, who was rehoused:-

Mrs. Hall, 67, Stowupland Street, to 21, Pages Close.



Representations made in respect of primitive conditions provided for the caravanners at the Sandpits Farm site, where the new owner was unable to meet the heavy expenditure required to modernise the site, resulted in its closure. This was facilitated by the Council rehousing the occupants of the three caravans remaining on the site.

At the close of the year the following caravan sites were in regular use:-

Pickerels Inn, Stowupland Street	(1) Seasonal showmen's quarters, exempt.
Pickerels Inn, Stowupland Street	(4) Permanent residential, unlicenced.
Combs Ford Square	(1) Permanent residential, unlicenced.
Caravan Sales, Bury Road	(1) Permanent residential, licenced.
Ambleside, Finborough Road	(2) Seasonal showmen's quarters, exempt.
Mr. Barker's land, Bridge Street	(3) Temporary showmen's quarters, exempt.

Part of land at the rear of the Pickerel's Inn, Stowupland Street, which has been the traditional home of a number of showmen for a decade or more, was sold off for commercial development with planning approval. Some showmen displaced by this found themselves with no alternative housing accommodation in Stowmarket, and the Council has endeavoured to help them by allowing them, with planning consent, to set up temporary seasonal homes with their caravans on a site in Bridge Street, pending their allocation of Council houses during 1967/68.

No action was called for under the Rent Act, 1957, for the issue of disrepair certificates. Three houses were the subject of repair as a result of formal or informal representation by the Council under the Public Health Acts.

#### FOOD.

No food poisoning cases were reported in the District in 1966, although there were a number of instances of bowel inflammation referred to the Department for investigation, and which proved to be of non-specific origin.

Regular visits were paid to food premises in the Town, and further improvements have been effected in many premises. The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1966, govern the hygienic conditions of food premises. They are expected to do more than they are generally intended, and it must be remembered that they are designed to prevent harmful contamination of food, not safeguard or improve the aesthetic standards; nevertheless, the safeguarding and improvement of aesthetic standards is an essential factor complementary to the production of safe food, and in the absence of regulations, the demands of the consumer, the provocation of healthy commercial competition and persuasion and education of the trades involved, must be relied upon to achieve much of the improvements that are desired.

The Regulations were enforced by formal action in the Courts on two occasions during the year. One case concerned a mobile hot dog vendor who failed to maintain reasonable standards on his twice-weekly ventures into our District, and the Magistrates imposed fines totalling £50 for contraventions of the Regulations. Some market stallholders seem reluctant to display their names and addresses on their stalls, despite the quality of their merchandise. After repeated requests for compliance, the Council reluctantly caused



proceedings to be taken against one vendor for infringing the Regulations in this respect, and a fine of £10 was imposed by the local Justices.

The importance of the subject of food hygiene was again emphasised by the Central Council for Health Education, which devoted its Annual Conference in January, 1966, to this subject.

1961 saw a new Public Health Act. Among other things it brought catering establishments within the scope of Section 89 of the 1936 Act, to require sanitary accommodation to be provided for patrons. Why on earth this amendment did not include provision for requiring washing facilities also, to enable customers to observe basic hygienic principles, is beyond me. It is 1967 - the demand for such a facility is abundantly obvious, and the legal instrument should be provided.

The Food Hygiene (Markets Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, were issued for operation from the 1st January, 1967. Hitherto only a small part of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960, have applied to markets, stalls and delivery vehicles, and for a long time this provoked a sense of injustice among those who operate static rate-paying food businesses, and also necessarily resulted in a wholly unjustifiable lower standard of hygienic operation enforceable among mobile businesses. The new Regulations are designed to promote a standard of hygiene in markets and on food vehicles relatively more comparable with the standards in static food premises, and broadly speaking prescribe standards for construction, conduct and facilities.

The Council supervises the market rights. The Stowmarket market is squeezed into a triangular plot in the main Market Square, which, no doubt, was eminently suitable in mediaeval times, but which in this day and age (particularly in the absence of the long-awaited relief road) rubs shoulders with the main thoroughfare with its constant flow of vehicular traffic of considerable proportions. If the Town had a reliable development plan, it might have been possible to suggest the site of the market being moved to a more appropriate setting, but in the circumstances the Council could only consider the market as now existing. It considered the merits of assuming responsibility for the equipping and operation of the market, which course might have resulted in a more attractive tidy Market Place, but which would nevertheless have involved the Council in difficult labour deployment for the erection, dismantling, storing and maintenance of stalls and equipment. The Council decided, after careful consideration of all the factors involved, to withdraw from the supply of stalls on the market altogether, and to leave individual stallholders to meet the terms of the Regulations themselves. This has resulted in an assortment of vehicles and stalls which have, however, proved to be not unattractive, particularly as this development happened to coincide with the Council's re-arrangement of stall sites on a much neater plan.

A schedule of the food premises in operation in the Town is as follows, and this schedule details information also concerning those complying with Regulations 16 and 19 (washhandbasins and sinks), which information is required by the Minister.

<u>Nature of Business</u>	<u>Complying with:</u>	
	<u>Reg. 16</u>	<u>Reg. 19</u>
Bakers (3)	3	3
Cake Confectioners (3)	3	3
Fish Friers (6)	5	6

/Cont'd ...



/Cont'd ...

<u>Nature of Business</u>	<u>Complying with:</u>	
	<u>Reg. 16</u>	<u>Reg. 19</u>
Wine Merchant (1)	1	1
Restaurants and cafes (10)	9	10
Market stallholders (6)	-	-
Butchers (6)	6	6
Fruiterers (7)	6	6
Sweet confectioners (9)	7	9
Wet fish merchant (1)	1	1
Chemists (3)	2	3
Public houses (18)	18	18
Sweet confectionery wholesaler (1)	1	1
Meat products manufacture (1)	1	1
Slaughterhouse (1)	-	-
General shops (22)	22	22
Canteens (7)	7	7

There are no pasteurization plants requiring attention in accordance with the Liquid Egg (Pasteurization) Regulations, 1963, and no samples of liquid egg were submitted for tests during the year.

37 premises are registered in accordance with Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice cream. There are no ice cream manufacturers in the District, although the Galleon Cafe retails a very tasty soft ice cream reconstituted from a cold mix on the premises.

Ice cream samples were taken as follows:-

Grade	Mobiles				Premises			
	I	II	III	IV	I	II	III	IV
Soft Ice-Cream	-	-	2	-	2	2	-	1
Other Ice-Cream	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-

10 premises are registered in accordance with Section 16 of the Act for the manufacture of sausages and other preserved foods, including fried fish and chips. The premises of one fish frier were the subject of action by the Council in accordance with Section 19, following which the registration of these premises in Cobbs Lane was cancelled as a result of failure to comply with the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960. The lease of the premises was subsequently sold, and the new trader effected improvements to the premises sufficient to justify the Council re-registering them.

The imposition of unnecessary registration and licensing upon the community is to be avoided, but I become more than ever convinced of the need for prior registration of all food premises and vehicles by local authorities vested with the task of applying the provisions of the food hygiene law. Such a course of action would not prove as burdensome as the tedious and time absorbing 'after sales service' local authorities so often find themselves carrying out to rectify deficiencies after food premises and vehicles have been brought into operation.



There were fewer complaints of defective foodstuff this year.

In one case it was found that mould growth in fruit pies had been induced by the method adopted by the shopkeeper to promote their hygienic display; he had used polythene sheeting to enclose his counter top pastry display during some particularly warm humid weather. Suitable advice on better keeping with a ventilated glass display counter was accepted, and no further action was taken by the Council.

Mouldy sliced wrapped bread was the subject of another complaint by the customer of a local store. The opportunity was taken to instigate a thorough overhaul of the bakery suppliers' distribution arrangements and stock rotation at the shop. The Council decided that no proceedings should be instituted in this case.

Mouldy wrapped sliced bread figured in a third complaint. Investigation at the local retail shop revealed a deficiency in the system of stock control, which it was possible to remedy. No proceedings were instituted, but once again a complaint helped to spotlight a flaw in marketing efficiency for the benefit of both trader and consumer.

A bandage embedded in the contents of a can of meat purchased from a local retailer provoked a complaint from the would-be consumer. The default obviously lay with the Danish packers, who were informed and laid the matter before those responsible for the production.

The Weights and Measures Inspectorate of the East Suffolk County Council as Food and Drugs Authority performs an important function in watching over the analytical content of food and drugs, to ensure their nature, substance and quality are safeguarded. Mr. P. Hosking is the Chief Inspector for East Suffolk, and his District Inspector, Mr. E. R. Balmer, reports on the work of his Department within the Urban District during 1966 as follows:-

"The following is a list of samples taken within the Urban District during the year ended 31st December, 1966 (excluding milk samples).

	<u>Genuine</u>	<u>Unsatisfactory</u>
Soft Drinks etc.	1	4
Cereals	3	
Meat Products	3	
Fish Products	1	
Biscuits	4	1
Soups		1
Beverages	1	
Confectionery	2	2
Preserves	1	1
Drugs	1	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	17	9
		<u>Total 26</u>

"With regard to the unsatisfactory samples, the two confectionery samples, which were of the same product, contained a colouring matter not permitted by the Colouring Matter in Food Regulations, 1957. A sample of vinegar contained one per cent added salt which was not declared contrary to the Labelling of Food Order, 1953. All other infringements related to minor offences under the Labelling of Food Order.

/Cont'd ...



"In addition to the above samples, four samples of fresh fruit and vegetables were submitted to the Public Analyst for testing for Pesticide Residue. No such residue was found.

"Five samples of spirits were tested informally at the Weights & Measures Office for proof spirit and all were found correct."

The wholesomeness of milk supplies within the County of East Suffolk is dealt with by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the East Suffolk County Council Public Health Department. The County Health Inspector deals with the biological sampling of milk supplies to determine the incidence of tubercle and brucella infection in milk consigned for consumption, and also the sampling of milk for examination by statutory tests to discover adulteration (e.g. by the addition of water) and to determine its cleanliness and the efficiency of pasteurization; the sampling of milk for detecting the presence of anti-biotics is also included in his interests.

There are six registered milk distributors operating in the District, and no adverse reports were received of any of their supplies.

Foodstuffs, other than raw meat supplies, which were condemned upon routine examination were disposed of by the Council at its Refuse Tip. Details of the food so dealt with are as follows:-

Cooked meat and meat products	42 lbs.
Canned meats	94 lbs.
Fish	29 lbs.
Fruit and vegetables	466 lbs.
Other foods	121 lbs.
<hr/>	<hr/>
Total:	752 lbs.
<hr/>	<hr/>

100% meat inspection was again achieved with little difficulty during the year. The throughput of animals is small, regular and invariably healthy. Conditions justifying condemnation are confined in the main to pleurisy and pneumonia and occasional parasitic or staphylococcal conditions. The Council enjoys the readily available services of a practice of veterinarians for relief meat inspection. Income from the slaughterhouse meat inspection charges amounted to £55. 6s. 9d., and relief meat inspection fees amounted to £18. 11s. Od.

The following schedule details post mortem examinations during the year:-

	CATTLE EXCLUDING COWS	COWS	CALVES	SHEEP AND LAMBS	PIGS
Number killed ... ... ...	355	-	-	439	3
Number not inspected ... ...	-	-	-	-	-
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticercosis:-</u>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	-	-	-	1	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ... ...	53	-	-	41	-
Percentage of numbers inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci ...	14.93	-	-	9.57	-
<u>Tuberculosis and cysticerci:</u> No cases of tuberculosis or cysticercosis arose.					



There is only one slaughterhouse operating in the District, that occupied by the family butchers, Messrs. W. H. Aldis & Sons, at 47, Bury Street, which serves the needs of this firm and the requirements of a few other private butchers in the surrounding district. One slaughterman is licenced in accordance with the Act for the slaughter of beasts, sheep and pigs only, using captive bolt stunning instruments.

The Meat Inspection (Amendment) Regulations, 1966, were issued during the year, and gave councils power to control hours of slaughter for the easier surveillance of meat sources. No control is necessary in the District's slaughterhouse, where slaughtering is confined to reasonable hours on weekdays only, and where an amicable relationship is enjoyed with the proprietors.

The Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1966, were also issued to provide for a number of worthwhile improvements in slaughterhouse practice. The use of non-edible dyes for marking edible carcases became prohibited - something one would have thought local authorities did not require legislation to induce! Another requirement concerns the use of those wiping cloths which are dying a hard death in the trade; they are due to go completely in 1968, but meanwhile are allowed in use provided they are sterilised before use. In no other industry perhaps is so little regard paid to the hygienic packaging of food than in the agriculture-meat industry so far as live animals are concerned; it is immensely difficult for slaughtermen to extricate hygienic meat from a dead animal 'wrapped' in a hide steeped in dung and other soil. The Regulations now require the keeping clean of lairages, but the situation will not really be satisfactory until they also require animals to be clean or cleaned prior to slaughter.

#### WATER SUPPLIES.

The District is served by two waterworks, one at Station Road and one at Poplar Hill, and in addition water is taken in from Gipping mains to serve parts of the District off Combs Lane and in Onehouse Road.

The expanded Ipswich Water Authority absorbed the local undertaking on 1st April, 1966. The Public Health Department continues to deal with inadequate and unwholesome water supplies in homes and workplaces, where action is required to cause owners and employers to remedy conditions within their control. There is necessarily a deal of liaisoning with the Ipswich Authority, particularly where inadequate pressures are concerned, and I am grateful for the help and advice that the Ipswich Authority's staff are always willing to afford.

Complaints related to the physical quality of the mains water supply are referred to the Ipswich Water Authority for attention.

Most of the community receives a water supply which is hard, contains no useful fluoride, and varies in physical quality. A few, in the Combs Lane area, and parts of Onehouse Road, receive water ex. Gipping mains (originating in Thedwastre area), and have the benefit of optimum fluoride content and a clear, more palatable, though still hard, water.



The following samples were taken during the year for bacteriological examination:-

<u>Address.</u>	<u>Description.</u>	<u>Result.</u>
72, Onehouse Road.	Mains	Satisfactory.
Coal Depot, Prentice Road.	Mains standpipe	Satisfactory.
3 & 5, Poplar Hill.	Mains standpipe	Satisfactory.
Foundry, Prentice Road.	Bore	Satisfactory.
Garage, Station Road.	Mains	Satisfactory.
Guest House, Needham Road.	Bore	Satisfactory.
72, Onehouse Road.	Mains	Satisfactory.
1, Ipswich Street.	Mains	Satisfactory.
69, Ipswich Street.	Mains	Satisfactory.
16, Ipswich Street,	Mains	Satisfactory.
40, Ipswich Street.	Mains	Satisfactory.
41, Ipswich Street.	Mains	Satisfactory.
Grocery Warehouse, Station Road.	Mains	Satisfactory.
Council Offices, Ipswich Road.	Mains	Satisfactory.
2, Poplar Hill.	Mains	Satisfactory.
Minton Kennels, Bury Road.	Bore	Satisfactory.
11/13, Poplar Hill.	Mains	Satisfactory.
Garden Factory, Bond Street.	Mains	Satisfactory.
26/30, Market Place.	Mains	Satisfactory.

The Council's swimming pool is operated by competent staff in the Engineer's Department, and they continue to maintain the water in the main pool and toddlers pool satisfactorily, using prescribed checking apparatus for determining the efficiency of chlorination throughout the day. Check samples were taken during the season as follows:-

<u>Date</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Result</u>
1st June, 1966.	Main pool	Satisfactory
7th June, 1966.	Main pool	Satisfactory
14th June, 1966.	Main pool	Satisfactory
14th June, 1966.	Footbath }	Coliform bacilli: more than 180 B.coli (Type 1): 50
	}	Plate count: more than 1500
5th July, 1966.	Main pool	Satisfactory.

Following enquiry of local chiropodists, attention was directed towards the precautions at the pool against disseminating verruca and similar foot infections. At the same time steps were taken by the display of suitable notices at the pool to draw users' attention to the need for refraining from using the pool when suffering from certain infectious ailments.

#### DRAINAGE AND SANITATION.

Formal and informal action by the Council resulted in defective drainage and sanitation serving 14 properties being repaired.

The Council's Sewage Works, which is run by a qualified chemist on the staff of the Engineer, functioned very satisfactorily again during the year. The installation of a sludge pressing plant at the Works started in 1966.



Messrs. Munton & Fison Ltd. finally decided not to take advantage of the Council's offer to treat their effluent at the Council's Sewage Works, following negotiations involving the Ministry of Housing and Local Government and the Rivers Board, and installed a treatment plant at the factory site, which, apparently, now satisfactorily deals with this factory's drainage prior to its discharge into the River Gipping.

Following on the decision of the Council to refurbish the public sanitary conveniences on the main Recreation Ground and in Marriots Walk, financial provision has now been made for new accommodation at the Recreation Ground; the Council proposes to meet the cost of these new conveniences by way of raising a loan over a period, which will involve annual charges of some £150. It has been necessary to defer the replacement of the primitive sanitary accommodation at the Hillside Recreation Ground for financial reasons. The improvement of public conveniences is a costly business, and though the modernisation of public conveniences in the Town is a pressing need, the Council must proceed by realistic stages. There is no doubt that the needs of the principal Recreation Ground and the Ipswich Street shopping area are more demanding.

#### REFUSE.

For some years the Council's refuse collection service has been based upon the use of standard B.S.S. galvanised iron dustbins of 2 cu. ft. capacity, the Council employing the skep system of collection in conjunction with side-loading refuse collection vehicles. Refuse is deposited on tipping land off Bury Road.

The system generally has been criticised in the past, for it is very difficult to collect refuse hygienically with this method; it is a great credit to the Engineer's refuse collectors that the situation has been kept within tolerable bounds. The Council took a valuable step in 1966 in the modernisation of its refuse collection service by deciding to purchase a fore and aft tipping rear-loading Shelvoke & Drewery refuse collection vehicle, costing a little short of £4,000, and due for delivery in the spring of 1967.

Any further improvements and alterations to the Council's refuse collection service must of necessity await the advice of the Government's Working Party, which publishes its Report in 1967.

During the year a report was received by the Council concerning both the collection of domestic and trade refuse. In the case of the former, it was decided to resolve, in accordance with the Public Health Act, 1936, that refuse receptacles for use in the District should be of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  cu. ft. capacity, in place of the 2 cu. ft. capacity hitherto approved, since it must be recognised that the density of refuse is diminishing, as also is the ability of individual householders to deal with part of their household refuse by composting and incineration. The District Auditor had asked the Council to review its trade refuse charges which were unrealistic, and as a result of an appraisal of the costs involved in collecting trade refuse from individual premises, most traders found their charges raised. This action was met with considerable dismay on the part of most traders, only seven of whom, however, decided to discontinue using the Council's refuse collection service, preferring to make their own private arrangements, which nevertheless cannot possibly be cheaper.



The municipal bin scheme that operates in Stowmarket, whereby the Council hires and maintains to individuals B.S.S. dustbins at an annual charge of 5s. Od. per annum, continued in operation, and at the close of the year there were 509 such bins on issue under the scheme; as an extension of this scheme, the Council invested in a small number of paper sack holders, and a supply of sacks, which are available for hire to selected premises where traditional receptacles cannot be kept wholesome.

Thoughtless dumping of rubbish outside the entrance to the Council's Refuse Tip continues, and unfortunately this filthy mess is beginning to encroach onto private land adjoining. Some attempt to alleviate this situation is being made by the Council making more readily known the facilities it offers householders for the disposal of bulky items. The Council will undertake the collection and disposal of items of refuse which cannot be disposed of via the usual household storage and collection scheme, and will give this service free on request. There is little doubt, however, that the majority of householders have in the past not known of this service.

As regards litter generally, the powers of the Litter Act, 1958, need to be extended considerably and in particular to apply to private land, particularly accessible to the public, with or without the owners permission. Many of us hope the Civic Amenities Act due in 1967 will provide Councils with the necessary powers in this direction.

The complaints concerning the fouling by dogs of footpaths and the Council's main Recreation Ground gained impetus in 1966, and the Council invested in a number of laminated plastic notices on boards displayed on the Recreation Ground, and at prominent positions adjoining footpaths which are the subject of this trouble. The majority of dog owners have accepted the advice in good grace, and have co-operated and to them I say thank you. It is still a sad thought, however, that the training of dogs' habits directs them to places outside their own owners' boundaries.

#### RODENT CONTROL.

A summary of the work carried out during the year is shown in the following table:-

Total number of properties inspected as a result of complaint	133
Number of these properties infested with rats	113
Number of these properties infested with mice	15
Total number of properties inspected by routine survey	225
Number of these properties infested with rats	82
Number of these properties infested with mice	5
Number of infested properties treated by Local Authority	206
Total number of treatments carried out to effect rodent control	296

A free service for the treatment of domestic premises, and a very cheap 'at cost' service for industrial and commercial users, is provided by the Council. The community is most co-operative in notifying the Department of any infestation, and the overall rat and mouse infestation situation in the Town is kept at a satisfactory level.

Mr. R. J. Bloomfield continues as part-time Rodent Operative to this Council, holding an appointment jointly with Stowmarket and Gipping Rural District Councils. He devotes himself to his duties in a most conscientious manner.



In addition to the routine rat and mouse control work, the Operative also deals with insect pests as and when the occasion demands, and during the year dealt with 32 wasps nests, 4 bees nests and 2 ant infestations. Like rat and mouse infestations, insect infestations are apt to be a nuisance and a health hazard to the general population, and not necessarily confined to the person on whose premises they nest, and in the circumstances the Council affords a free service for the elimination of such pests.

I had the privilege of attending a one-day pest control symposium provided for local authority staffs by Rentokil Ltd. This was an excellent opportunity to revise the subject and to learn and discuss new developments which have occurred. One hopes that this might become a regular event, not necessarily under the auspices of a commercial undertaking, but perhaps provided by the Ministry.

#### ATMOSPHERE.

Apart from the requirements of the Building Regulations which ensure the installation in new houses of heating appliances of a design that will permit the combustion of smokeless fuel, no action has been taken in the District to promote a smoke-free atmosphere. The urban community is small in area, and surrounded by the agricultural countryside, and domestic pollution from the 3,000 houses in the Town is not necessarily noticeable except to the individual housewife, when she has to re-launder smutted linens and constantly wash soiled woodwork and curtains.

No statutory action was taken by the Council against any industrial undertakings during the year.

The foundry cupolas of the Suffolk Iron Foundry (1920) Ltd. were raised to 70 ft. and equipped with wet arresters during the annual shut-down in 1966, and this has resulted in the elimination of a large proportion of the heavier particulate matter from the emissions from the Foundry.

#### WORKPLACES.

Factories within the Urban District are powered, and the majority of the provisions of the Factories Act, 1961 are therefore administered by H.M. Factories Inspector based at Ipswich, the Council's responsibilities being confined to the administration of the provisions relating to sanitary accommodation and the certification of water supplies.

A summary of the premises and work carried out by the Council under the Factories Act, 1961, is as follows:-

Powered factories	55
Other premises	9
Number of inspections	30
Sanitary defects found	8
Sanitary defects remedied	5



Two premises are registered in accordance with the Rag, Flock and Other Filling Materials Act, 1965:-

- (i) Messrs. Glasswells Ltd., 57, Ipswich Street.
- (ii) Messrs. J. Collins & Sons Ltd., Jaycol Works, Finborough Road.

One dealer is registered in accordance with the Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964:-

Mr. V. O. Cracknell, 85, Needham Road.

The following is a schedule of the premises and the work undertaken in connection with the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, the enforcement of which is shared with H.M. Factories Inspectorate and the Fire Authority.

TABLE A REGISTRA- TIONS AND GENERAL INSPEC- TIONS.	(1) Class of premises	(2) No. of premises registered during the year.	(3) Total no. of registered premises at end of year.	(4) No. of registered prem. receiving a general inspection during the year.
	Offices	3	35	8
	Retail shops	3	80	32
	Wholesale shops, warehouses	-	4	-
	Catering establishments open to the public, canteens.	2	8	4
	Fuel storage depots	-	2	-
	TOTALS	8	129	44

TABLE B - NO. OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS TO REGISTERED PREMISES:

124.

One non-fatal accident was reported during the year; this involved an elderly employee at a warehouse, and the accident appeared to result from his negotiation of two steps in the warehouse, untidily cluttered with stored goods. Suitable advice on the maintenance of unobstructed passageways etc. was given to the proprietors, but at the end of the year such advice had not been acted upon.



During 1966, the Ministry of Labour published an annual report on the accidents which had occurred in offices, shops and railway premises during 1965. The opportunity was taken to extract relevant information from this report which was circularised in convenient booklet form to all the employers of staff of offices and shops etc. in the District, in the hope that they might benefit from the unfortunate experiences of others.

An analysis of the staff employed in registered premises is as follows:-

TABLE C  ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGIS- TERED PREMISES BY WORK- PLACE.	(1)	(2)
	Class of workplace	Number of persons employed
	Offices	249
	Retail shops	489
	Wholesale departments, warehouses	18
	Catering establishments open to the public	58
	Canteens	2
	Fuel storage depots	14
	Total:	830
	Total Males:	328
	Total Females:	502

Proceedings were authorised by the Council for infringements of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, in the case of two registered premises. Boots (Farm Sales) Ltd. were proceeded against for infringing Section 9 of the Act insofar as they had failed to provide sanitary accommodation at their newly-erected sales premises in Station Road; the Magistrates found the case proven and imposed a fine of £10, and the sanitary accommodation was subsequently installed. Proceedings against a local retailer for failing to provide sex notices and artificial lighting in sanitary accommodation provided for his shop staff were not instituted, when the necessary works were effected prior to the issue of summonses.

#### MISCELLANY.

The shop of Cramphorn Ltd. at 4, Ipswich Street, continued to be licenced as a pet shop in accordance with the Pet Animals Act, 1951, and satisfactory conditions were maintained.

Minton Kennels, Bury Road, Stowmarket, were re-licenced in accordance with the Animal Boarding Establishments Act, 1963, during the year, following further alterations to the premises.



No complaints regarding noise nuisances were received during the year, but in view of the fact that development and utility service works are frequently carried out in the Town, and invariably involve the use of road-drilling equipment, the Council brought to the notice of utility service operators the need for sound-proofing road-drilling equipment. The East Suffolk County Surveyor immediately took action to ensure full co-operation by those in his employ, and has set an excellent example in the District; the Telephone Manager enjoys a national arrangement whereby his Departments employ only proofed apparatus. The Electricity Board promised to consider the matter, and the Council also arranged for its own future contracts or works to be covered by conditions ensuring the use of proofed apparatus.

In September the Council availed me the opportunity of attending with Councillor R. W. Hiron, the Annual Conference of the Association of Public Health Inspectors. Held at Scarborough and attracting 2,000 delegates, it provided the following programme of papers and a comprehensive exhibition which proved well worthwhile attending:-

Slaughterhouses, Meat Inspection and Slaughterhouse Practice.  
Refuse Collection.  
Problems of Bacteriological Standards for Meat Products.  
Some Aspects of Air Pollution Research.  
Public Health Aspects of Food Packaging and Automatic  
Vending.  
Housing Problems and the 1965 - 1970 Programme.  
Re-shaping Our Physical Environment.

Keeping abreast of information and events in the public health sphere is absolutely essential, though not always easy. At a national level there are the media of technical press, professional associations, conferences and courses. At a local level, however, the opportunities have been sparse apart from infrequent professional meetings. In an endeavour to rectify this to some extent, the production of a Suffolk Public Health Bulletin was introduced in 1966. This aims at collating and disseminating topical local information to the public health inspectorate in the Suffolk area. The Stowmarket Urban District Council started the venture by financing and staffing the Bulletin for the first 12 months.

Infectious diseases did not tax the Department's resources in 1966. Measles notifications are maintained for their statistical value, and involve no preventive work beyond waiting for the perfection of prophylactic vaccines. Protection afforded by artificial immunisation relieves the Council of any concern as far as poliomyelitis, diphtheria and whooping cough are concerned. The Chest Physician and the Health Visitor liaise on tuberculosis cases. As far as work involving the Council was concerned, there were 5 Scarlet Fever infections requiring control enquiries, and a number of instances of bowel upset requiring investigation involving 48 specimens being submitted for laboratory examination. No specific intestinal infections arose, although one family, contacts of a salmonella incident outside the District, were kept under surveillance for a period.

The year 1966 was not an unduly eventful year, and most of the work was of a routine nature. I wish to record my appreciation of the support and interest of the Members of the Council, and the help of my colleagues on the Staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,  
Yours respectfully,

L. W. BROWN

Public Health Inspector.

